



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

October 14, 2003

Vol. 03, No. 28

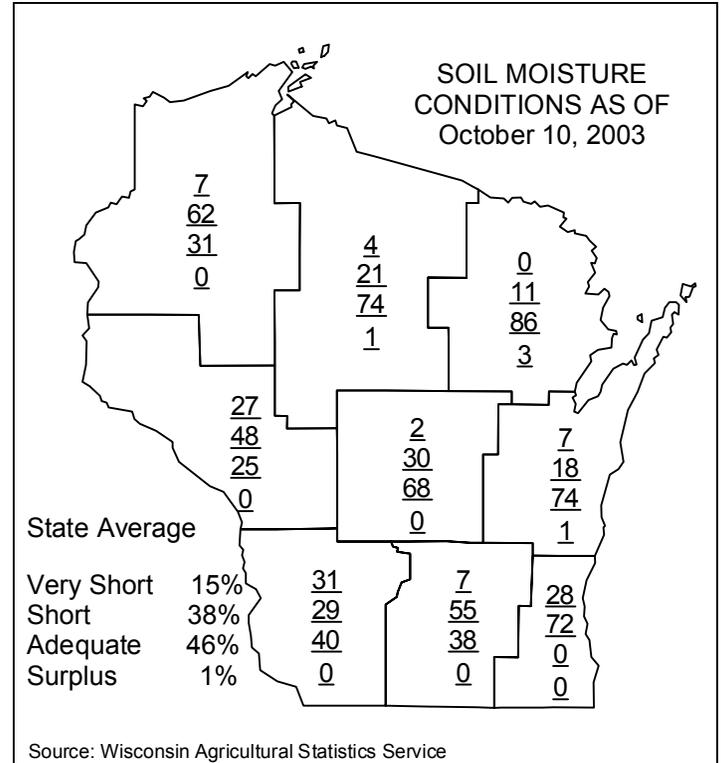
Indian Summer Weather Arrives

Following a week of cold weather, Wisconsin saw a week of above normal temperatures. Temperatures were 3-9 degrees above normal for the past week. Farmers took advantage of the dry, warm weather to quickly advance all fall farm activities. There were scattered rain events around the state, but most of the week allowed for fieldwork activities. The week saw an average of 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture conditions changed very little, with 15% rated very short, 38% short, 46% adequate, and 1% surplus. Many areas could use substantial rains to add to soil moisture levels and to build up low reserves for the next growing season. Pasture feed conditions were rated as 24% very poor, 28% poor, 32% fair, 16% good, and 0% excellent. Livestock continue to need supplemental feeding on the short pastures.

The favorable weather conditions allowed for late-planted **corn** to mature and for silage harvest to near completion. Corn harvested for silage reached 94%, above both the 81% last year and the 89% 5-year average. Corn harvested for grain continued with 20% reported harvested by week's end. This compares to 13% last year and a 5-year average of 21% complete. Yields are disappointing in some areas, with a great degree of variability from field to field. The summer's spotty rainfalls had a greater effect on the **soybean** crop around Wisconsin. Soybean harvest was in full swing for the week. Soybeans harvested reached 54% complete, well ahead of both last year's 34% and the 5-year average of 42%. Yield reports ranged from 5-40 bushels per acre. Many fields are averaging in the 20's. This would be significantly below the last two year's yield levels.

Alfalfa harvest is mostly completed for the growing season. Late-cutting of frosted fields will help short forage supplies, but many producers are wary of possible damage to the crop over winter. The previous winter's frost damage combined with the dry summer caused some older stands in northern areas to be sprayed with Roundup. Early-planted **winter wheat** has emerged, with drills planting more behind soybean harvest. Added moisture would help crop conditions. **Fall tillage** and **manure hauling** were mixed in with the harvest activities.

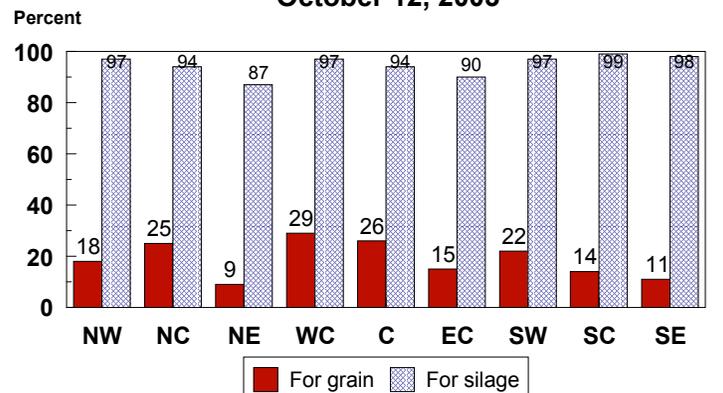
Potato harvest neared completion in many areas. Yields are reported to be good in irrigated fields. **Cranberry** harvest is reported to be going well, with very good yields. The warm weather caused Asian beetle populations to resurge and caused some damage to the fall **raspberry** crop. **Apple** harvest continued in advance of the Halloween season.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of October 10, 2003

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	24	28	32	16	0
Corn	9	20	39	30	2
Soybeans	17	32	37	12	2

Wisconsin Corn Harvested, by District October 12, 2003



Wisconsin Crop Progress, October 12, 2003

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn mature	88	99	87	96	93	85	89	96	97	92	88	88
Corn hrvtstd. for silage	97	94	87	97	94	90	97	99	98	94	81	89
Corn for grain harvested	18	25	9	29	26	15	22	14	11	20	13	21
Soybeans harvested	53	61	30	47	48	52	48	60	66	54	34	42
Fourth cutting hay	25	25	40	73	66	40	72	76	40	55	60	64
Fall tillage completed	18	25	15	10	35	31	8	11	27	18	9	16

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Everyone is back out in the field finishing up second crop hay and fall tillage. Corn is frozen and some silage is being made.

BURNETT-J.D.: Dry again. Soybean harvesting best before noon, as shattering means loss.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Heavy frosts have ended the growing season. Corn and soybeans are completely killed. Early-planted corn and soybeans are yielding well. Late-planted corn has few ears and stalks are short. Late-planted soybeans did not fill the pods; beans are very small. Not much fourth crop alfalfa. Pastures not showing much growth.

FOREST-A.K.: Hard frost last week which stopped any growth. Corn silage proceeding well. Fieldwork is about 50 percent done.

LANGLADE-K.W.: Temperatures down to 20 degrees a week ago Monday. Had 2.0 inches of frost in the ground. Some potatoes froze. Soybean yields on some fields will be less than 10 bushels per acre.

BUFFALO-R.S.: An excellent week for combining soybeans; heard reports of 40 bushels per acre down to 20 bushels per acre. Baled some frozen hay and found its yield to be very low. Those who did high moisture corn found the corn stalks were dry enough to bale some nice bedding. Winter wheat and rye are up and green, if it was planted by the first of October.

PIERCE-D.J.: Soybeans that were harvested have been ranging from 15 to 40 bushels per acre.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Hard frost killed most tender plants, followed by warm weather and Asian Lady Beetle invasion. Soybean yields range from 11 to 40 bushels per acre and are down 20 bushels per acre in most fields.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: Good week for potato harvest, but still considerable acreage to be harvested. There is no corn for grain harvested in this area.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Good week for soybeans. Heavy combining of soybeans going on with yields about 30 to 40

bushel per acre. Right after soybeans, no-till drills planting winter wheat. Also, regular drills planting winter wheat, hoping for some moisture. Waiting for corn to dry down for high moisture corn. Some baling of soybean straw going on. Only saw two farmers taking off fourth crop alfalfa for feeding.

WINNEBAGO-D.U.: Soybean yields are in the low 30 bushels per acre and corn yields 120 to 140 bushels per acre.

IOWA-S.M.: About half done with soybean harvest. Yields range from 16 to 35 bushels per acre. Corn yields are between 56 and 115 bushels per acre. Winter wheat is about half planted. Some fall Roundup is being applied.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Quite a few growers are harvesting fourth crop alfalfa, but are not getting a very high yield. Soybean yields are 50 percent or more below the last two years' yield levels. Corn is actually yielding somewhat better than was expected.

COLUMBIA-J.J.: Soybean harvest just getting underway.

JEFFERSON-J.M.: Great week for fieldwork. Most Soybeans are off. Some corn is done. Winter wheat is planted. Most no-till into soybean stubble.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Most soybeans are out. Silo filling is done. Wheat is in.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Corn silage is done. Soybeans are coming off fast. Yields are 15 to 45 bushels per acre, with very few 45 bushels per acre. Did fourth crop alfalfa cutting and it yielded alright. Quality was good. Still planting wheat. Spraying for weeds. Some corn is combined.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
State Statistician

Bob Hunter
Statistician

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on October 12, 2003

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to Oct. 11	Mar. 1 to Oct. 11 normal *	Last week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	74	46	84	32	60	9	2821	2495	0.80	3.14	-1.41	20.97
Green Bay	72	39	80	24	56	5	2416	2359	0.19	3.99	0.12	25.13
La Crosse	76	49	84	37	62	8	3099	2822	0.30	2.95	-1.26	19.81
Madison	73	43	79	31	58	5	2736	2776	0.25	4.59	0.77	21.06
Milwaukee	70	47	82	33	58	3	2578	n.a.	0.10	1.89	-2.31	15.11

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.